

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED 1939

October 2005 Newsletter

President: Linda Arnold
Newsletter: Diana Patton
497 Stony Brook Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Sunny Autumn Greetings!

What a **FANTASTIC** fall we're having so far (except we need rain); my summer flowers are still blooming; and although I'm sure the poor dears are tired, they look great! You will feel **GREAT** after coming to RVAA's next meeting, **Monday, October 24th, 7:30 pm** at the Somerset County Library. Again, we will have something new—**Ken Schwartz**, a practicing commercial artist, free-lance graphic designer, who taught at Spectrum and now is the Coordinator of the Commercial Art/Multi-media Department at the Somerset County Technical Institute. Ken will do a marker and mixed media demo with graphic design, while discussing his field, and will also bring many examples of his work. He has done many demos and the evening promises to be really exciting! Have questions! Rosemary Zangara will be our Refreshments Hostess and we thank Rosemary for this, just as we thank Kathy Blair and Mary Ann Vaccaro for September's spread. (speaking of September, we all enjoyed Bryan Langdo's watercolor demo for a children's book and seeing the wonderful children's books he has illustrated, and written and illustrated)

RVAA is looking for a Refreshment Hostess/Host for November. Please call President Linda Arnold at 908/647-3610 if you'd like to volunteer.

On Monday, November 28th, RVAA will host watercolor demonstrator Joel Popadics.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RVAA MEMBER FLORENCE WHITE! If you were at the September meeting you will have noticed the very handsome and colorful and convenient box for RVAA's mirror. How we have needed good storage for that mirror! And Florence made **THE BOX. Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

DUES ARE DUE! Membership Chairman Doug Axmann reminds us that dues were due in September (**what are you waiting for?**) Individual Membership is \$26.; Family is \$33.; Student (high school and under) is \$15. You can send a check made out to RVAA to Doug at 16 Schoolhouse Lane, Somerville, NJ, 08876. You don't want to miss all the privileges of membership: two or three shows a year, monthly demos (and refreshments), our Newsletter, our bus trip(s), and so important, artistic camaraderie.

Many of us were saddened this summer to hear about the death of RVAA member Bertie Blockley. Bertie was not only a talented artist, in watercolors particularly, but she was one of the sweetest and most interesting women you could know. Your editor first met Bertie about 20 years ago when she took my watercolor classes and even went up to Maine for my workshops in 1985 and 1986. We will all miss Bertie and we send our prayers and sympathy to all her friends and family. Bertie was also an active volunteer for Somerset Art Association and a pretty terrific ballroom dancer!

September's Newsletter mentioned shows you could enter and now you'll be viewing, but please don't forget to let your editor know if you are in these shows, and if you want to broadcast the news of other shows we can enter. Our Holiday Show at the Somerset County Library will be in December, of course, so more on that next month.

Meanwhile, you don't have to go all the way to New York City to view two first class museums nearby—namely, the Princeton Art Museum in the center of the lovely Princeton University campus, and the Zimmerli Museum, in the heart of Rutgers territory, at 71 Hamilton Street in New Brunswick. Both have excellent websites--- www.princetonartmuseum.org/ and www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu

At the Princeton Art Museum, from October 8, 2005—January 15, 2006 a special exhibit **The Legacy of Homer, art from the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris**, will be showing. Founded in 1882, the museum is one of the leading university art museums in the country. The collections include over 60,000 works of art ranging from ancient to contemporary and they concentrate geographically on the Mediterranean regions, Western Europe, China, the USA, and Latin America. The museum is open Tues-Sat, 10-5; Sunday 1-5. Phone 609/258-3788. All donations through October will benefit the Southeastern Museums Conference Hurricane Katrina Fund.

The Zimmerli Art Museum is open Tues—Fri from 10-4:30, and Saturday and Sunday from noon until 5. Admission fee is only \$3. Spotlight Tours are offered every Sunday from 2—2:30 and from 3—3:30. Some of their exhibitions are “Japonisme and the Decorative Arts” ongoing; “Breaking the Mold” Oct 23—March 12; “Origins of the 20th Century:Watercolors and Drawings in France, 1875-1915” through Jan 29, 2006;”A Witness to War: Edward Steichen's US Navy Photography, through Jan. 29, 2006; “Creating a Paper Paradise Illustrations for DEAR WORLD by Takayo Noda, through Feb 5, 2006, and “Serialities:Repetition and Narrative in Soviet Nonconformist Art: through March 1, 2006.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GAY BILLICH and **JOAN MCKINNEY** had their work accepted into the Garden State Watercolor Society Show currently at the Montgomery Center for the Arts, 1860 House, in Skillman, to October 23rd.

SHERRY ENGELBERG has her pastel “Waiting” accepted into the juried show sponsored by the Somerset Art Association in the “By the Sea” show at the Shimnon and Sarah Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, which runs through November 6th. RVAA members also included in this juried show are **KEN BERNHARD**, **GAY BILLICH**, **RAE HOFFMAN**, **DIANA PATTON**, and **CHRISTIANE SILLA**.

ELSA HERRMANN was awarded Third Place in the Manasquan River Artists' Group, and her work was accepted in the Jane Laws L.B.I. Juried Summer Watercolor Exhibition. Elsa was also in the American Artists Professional League—NJ Show at Ocean County College in Toms River and in the Brielle Day Art Show in September.

Please don't forget to mail me your news, or—email me,

diana@dianapatton.com

BREAKING NEWS...The Paper Mill Playhouse is slated to give up art exhibitions of such local art organizations as the NJWCS, AAPL-NJ, and now, just when we've achieved it—RVAA's Exhibition in 2007! (our show at the Paper Mill was announced to joyful reaction at September's meeting by Rosalie Stern). Even the traditional juried International Miniature Art Show each June is not in the 2006 schedule. The plan of the (fairly new—2003) CEO and President of the Paper Mill is to have posters about the current production up, as far as we know, and eliminate the usual wonderful exhibitions of NJ artists. As a member of several art organizations and on the board of Garden State Watercolor Society, your editor knows how many exhibition spaces NJ artists have lost in the past several years. **NJ ARTISTS CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE EXHIBITION SPACES**, whether to inexpensive poster exhibits or NY galleries who come in and put up their work, or just plain repainting-redecorating (and less insurance costs and trouble to the businesses). So—I'm urging you to write or email the Paper Mill Playhouse, in particular, President and CEO Michael Gennaro, c/o the Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive, Millburn, NJ 07041, and urge him to reconsider. After all—how many playgoers enjoy these exhibits (and purchase the paintings, with a good commission to the Paper Mill) during the intermissions? Thousands each year. Many times I've been told by friends that they have seen the exhibits there. In addition, the Paper Mill gets grants for their work. Doesn't their work also include the promotion and exhibition of NJ artists? I think so. Please—write a letter or note, or at least, email. Perhaps do a chain email to friends you know who go to the Paper Mill. As far as we know (info from the internet and Debbie Tintle and Joan McKinney) the last local artist show is July 28, 2006—the NJWCS show—and even that's not positive. **RVAA WAS TO HAVE A SHOW THERE IN 2007. THAT SMARTS!** You might mention that the Gallery Director Merrilyn Crane has always done a superlative job of hanging the exhibitions and promoting NJ artists. Thanks for reading, and, hopefully, reacting.